



ITW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/781,026
Filed: February 18, 2004
Inventor(s):
Paul F. Illegems and
Klaas Wortel

Title: APPARATUS AND
METHOD TO ACCESS A
PLURALITY OF PN-
JUNCTIONS WITH A
LIMITED NUMBER OF
PINS

Examiner: Verbitsky, Gail Kaplan
Group/Art Unit: 2859
Atty. Dkt. No: 5707-05600

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey C. Hood

JC Hood

Signature

2/3/2006

Date

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant requests consideration of ☐ the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or ☒ the additional information identified below in paragraph 5. A copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;
☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

- b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed below.
- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed below.
2. It is hereby certified:
- ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) _____, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:
5. ☒ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicant is aware that, prior to the filing date of the present application, a specification was proposed for a fan controller that monitored thermal zones, fan speeds and voltages. Overall, the specification described the functionality of an integrated, hardware-based fan control and fan monitoring system that supported the following features:

- Internal Ambient Temperature sensing**
- Monitoring of two remote thermal diodes**
- Five Voltage Identification Inputs**
- Five Voltage Supply Monitors**

- SMBus 2.0 compliant interface
- XOR Tree Test Mode
- PWM fan control and tachometer monitoring
 - * Monitor four fans controlled by three PWM outputs
 - * Programmable automatic fan control based on temperature.

The specification further described an autofan control algorithm to control three PWM outputs based on three temperature zones, and proposed fan control and fan monitoring systems that included registers corresponding to each implemented function, with each register configurable by a host computer BIOS. These registers could be programmed and updated as part of the autofan control algorithm, allowing the monitoring of temperatures in three different zones and the monitoring of four different tachometer signals. These registers could also be used for setting fan control voltage limits, temperature limits, and three separate hysteresis values.

6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.
8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are required relating to this Information Disclosure Statement. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC, Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5707-05600/JCH.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MEYERTONS HOOD KIVLIN KOWERT & GOETZEL PC
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8800

Date: 2/3/2006